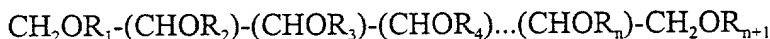


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adhesive for hard tissues comprising a fluid composition containing a plurality of lysine-based isocyanate endcapped absorbable star polymer molecules, said plurality of star polymer molecules having at least one terminal, reactive isocyanate group and being  
5 capable of undergoing cross-linking with each other when exposed to water thereby curing to provide a solid material.

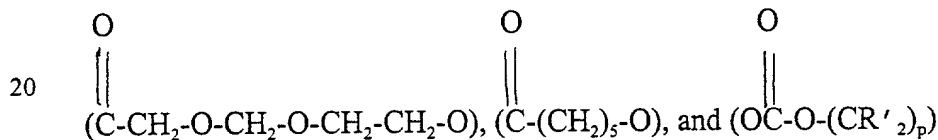
2. An adhesive as in claim 1 wherein the absorbable star polymer includes repeating units derived from one or more monomers selected from the group consisting of p-  
10 dioxanone, ε-caprolactone, alkylene carbonates and mixtures thereof.

3. An adhesive as in claim 1 wherein the plurality of lysine-based isocyanate endcapped absorbable star polymer molecules have the general formula:



15 wherein: n equals 2 to 13;

$R_1, R_2, \dots, R_{n+1}$  are the same or different and selected from the group of a hydrogen atom or  $(Z)_m$  wherein Z comprises repeating units selected from the group consisting of



wherein p is 3 to 8 and each  $R'$  may be the same or different and are individually selected from

the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl having from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, such that at least three of said  $R_1, R_2 \dots R_{n+1}$  groups are other than hydrogen;

$m$  is sufficient such that the star polymer has an inherent viscosity in HFPI at 25°C between about 0.05 and about 0.5 dl/gm;

- 5                    the  $m$ 's for each (Z) group may be the same or different; and
- at least one of said (Z) <sub>$m$</sub>  groups being endcapped with a lysine based isocyanate and containing a terminal, active isocyanate group

4.            An adhesive as in claim 3 wherein the isocyanate is derived from a
- 10   lysinediisocyanate.

5.            An adhesive as in claim 1 wherein moisture naturally occurring in tissue to be adhered is sufficient to provide crosslinking and curing to a solid material.